

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9014

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVIAR - GOI ACCPTANCE OF TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS

REF: (A) STATE 8406; (B) ROME 531

1. AS EXPLAINED REF (B), EMBASSY CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN EFFORT OBTAIN GOI PERMISSION FOR SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. APPROACH AT THIS TIME ON TRAVEL GROUP CHARTERS (TGC) WOULD AT LEAST DELAY AND PERHAPS KILL FAVORABLE GOI ACTION ON SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS.

2. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY WILL DELAY APPROACH ON TGC UNTIL GOI HAS MADE ITS DECISION ON SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS, WHICH DECISION IS EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. ASSUMING GOI APPROVES SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS, CIVILAVIA WILL WANT TO KNOW WHY TGC IS ALSO NECESSARY. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE WHY BOTH SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS AND TGC ARE NECESSARY IN US-ITALY MARKET. IS MAIN FACTOR THAT SOME ORGANIZATIONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AFFINITY CHARTERS (PARA 1 REFTTEL A). IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFICS.

4. EMBASSY ASSUMES ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT CAB PLANS PHASE-OUT OF AFFINITY CHARTERS AFTER 1975 SEASON AND CONSEQUENTLY SOMETHING OTHER THAN INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTER (ITC) IS REQUIRED FOR US-ITALY MARKET AFTER THIS TIME. IS THIS CORRECT?

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5. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFO AS TO WHY SCANDINAVIANS

DO NOT ACCEPT TGC. CIVILAVIA (STIMULATED BY ALITALIA) LIKELY TO
OFFER SAME OBJECTIONS AND EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE OFFER
EFFECTIVE REBUTTAL.

6. PRIME FACTOR IN GOI DECISION ON TGC WILL BE ATTITUDE OF ALITALIA,
WHICH EMBASSY ANTICIPATES WILL BE UNFAVORABLE. (ALITALIA OPPOSITION
HELD UP APPROVAL ITC SEVERAL MONTHS.) GOI MINISTRIES OTHER THAN
TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION, HOWEVER, WOULD HAVE INTEREST IF IT CAN
BE
DEMONSTRATED THAT TGC WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT ON CURRENTLY
DEPRESSED ITALIAN TOURIST INDUSTRY. IN THIS RESPECT, DATA CONTAINED
PARA 4 REFTEL A NOT ENCOURAGING. (QUERY: IF TGC SUCH A SMALL FACTOR
IN TRANSATLANTIC CHARTER MARKET, WHY DOES USG CONSIDER IT SO
IMPORTANT?) VOLPE

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